

COON RAPIDS PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2015

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order on October 12, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Public Works Conference Room.

Members Present: Chair Tim Arntson, Commissioners Neal Livermore, Tim Matsche, Ryan McAlpine, and Valerie Weaver

Members Absent: Commissioners Jacobson and Sand

Also Present: Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator
Gregg Engle, Parks Supervisor

ROLL CALL

Chair Arntson acknowledged roll call.

1. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 12, 2015 AGENDA

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MATSCHE, TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 12, 2015 AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MATSCHE, TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 MEETING MINUTES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of Updated Designs for 2016 Park Bond Projects

Mr. Gunderson reviewed the biggest change from the last meeting was at Delta Ridge per the Council's request for a revision. Through the City's experience of doing some of these projects neighbors get concerned when they are used to having something in their background and the plan is to move it around. An example is a playground when someone is used to having it in their own backyard and suddenly it will be in someone else's backyard. The plan was redesigned to leave things closer to how they were. The basketball court will be moved out of the back corner. Chair Arntson asked if the balls would be going from the ball field into the basketball court and Mr. Gunderson said it should not be an issue as it is a practice facility.

Mr. Gunderson provided colored pictures of the plans. Staff is requesting a recommendation to move this forward to Council for approval. Pheasant Ridge was

being reviewed for more handi-capped accessibility. On the north side of 119th Council decided to leave it as is so no retaining wall would be required. Mason Park will have new trail blazed and all other items will be put back where they were. Investigation is still being done on native plantings in Mason Park. The building at Woodcrest the bathrooms would need to be completely renovated, as they do not meet current standards for size. The decision has not been made as to what to do with the building. The building needs a new roof and the foundation is not in good shape among other things. The building inspector will make a recommendation.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE, TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL APPROVE UPDATED DESIGNS FOR 2016 PARK BOND PROJECTS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Current Trail Project Updates

Mr. Gunderson provided the following trail project updates:

Coon Rapids Blvd Trail – Project should be complete within two weeks. The trail is done with only revitalization needing completion along the edges. Commissioner Livermore asked if there is a trail being considered east of Hanson further down. Mr. Engle stated it is being looked at and some funding is being investigated.

85th Avenue Trail – Staff is working with property owners to coordinate easement acquisitions. Staff reviewed a boardwalk system for a portion of the trail; however, Anoka County would not allow this option due to the proposed location along 85th Avenue. Staff continues to work on the drainage design and anticipates having plans submitted for agency review within the next few weeks. The County will need to approve those plans. Mr. Gunderson stated he attended the MRPA Park and Rec Conference, there were vendors for boardwalks, and their big sale is that boardwalks are safer than what the County will want done as it gives separation from the trail and traffic. Mr. Engle stated the County did not approve due to a number of reasons.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gunderson noted the all-day Council workshop is scheduled for Friday, October 30. There will be a discussion about Sand Creek, the Ice Arena and the future park at the Ice Arena and how will these amenities be promoted. Mr. Gunderson noted at the conference he attended it was noted other cities work closely with the Convention and Visitor's Bureau on tournaments. Mr. Gunderson does not believe any of the athletic associations work with the Bureau on planning tournaments. He believes the City should take more of a lead in working on the tournaments to make them more promotable and better for businesses.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Park Supervisor Updates

Mr. Engle reviewed a meeting was held with the Land Committee but he was unable to attend. He was notified by the police that kids broke into the Wintercrest warming house and they were growing pot plants inside the warming house. The Land committee wanted to talk about their future long-term plans and needs for Bison Park. Eleanor Ritchie has offered to sell her property located on Main and Shenandoah (NW Corner) to the City. There is a house behind the sound wall and another house on the corner. More information will be obtained and reported on at the next meeting.

Super America is going in and may have an impact on Al Flynn Park and Port River Walk. Mr. Engle will research and report back to the Park Commission. Commissioner Livermore asked if drawings could be obtained to see how the access road would go into the property. Mr. Engle will email his findings to the Commission.

There was a construction meeting at Sand Creek last week. Commissioner Weaver asked if there would be a net put up between the walking path and the football field and Mr. Engle stated no one over 12 years old will be playing there and it shouldn't be an issue. There is still enough of a safe zone there. Chair Arntson stated the grass on the fields looks awesome. Some seeding will still be done. The neighbors requested additional seeding, spraying, and cleaning up the hillside in the spring. For field #2 the heads still need to be adjusted. Another application of fertilizer will be done in November. The weather station is being worked on. City staff will be blowing out the irrigation systems. Electrical connections will be done in 3-4 weeks. Working with the county on traffic control on intersection from Redwood. The gas will be installed next spring for the building. Mr. Engle reviewed the other items to be completed. The skating park concrete crew will be coming in October 19th to lay the pad. The equipment is being stored in St. Louis and will be installed next year. Access to the park will be limited until very late summer of next year. The Little League teams will need to access from the back.

Mr. Engle and the Engineering Department went to look at trails. They looked at the trail from Riverview Park to Dahlia Park, Epiphany Pines Park and the bridge at Erlandson. Cost estimates will be developed. Commissioner Livermore asked if the one by Riverview couldn't be part of the referendum trail work. Mr. Engle stated that would be possible. An intern will be starting after the first of the year and they will be looking at the trails.

Mr. Engle reviewed the parking lots that had been resurfaced this year. Commissioner McAlpine stated the soccer complex parking lot is in bad shape. Mr. Engle stated it was recently patched and seal coated. Commissioner McAlpine stated he sees people walking on the bridge on Coon Rapids Blvd. He suggested the Safety Commission be notified to look at that. A quality trail or sidewalk that would go all the way to Culver's would be desirable.

Mr. Engle stated Hoover is completed. Riverview Park building has a couple leaks which staff is working on. The hockey rink will be put up at Riverview in the next week or so.

The rain garden is finished at Hoover. An Eagle Scout put in 4 picnic table slabs at Mercy Park. Discussions have been held regarding Woodview. Design changes will be discussed at an upcoming meeting. This could be a good picnic space. Commissioner Livermore asked if in addition to a shelter at Woodview, some pads could be put down for other picnic area. Mr. Gunderson questioned if people know that Woodview even exists. Riverdale would be ideal for larger groups although the shelter is right next to the playground.

Mr. Engle reviewed the trail projects for 2016. Alder Park basketball and tennis courts were resurfaced. The Sand Creek area rain gardens are going in and also in Acorn Park.

There were ADA issues at a few parks and Lions Coon Creek Park is receiving new pads as well as Cardinal Woods, Riverwind and Soccer complex. The bids were \$17,000 to get those 4 parks done. Mr. Engle showed pictures to the Commission.

More concrete pads will be placed at various other parks within the City for picnic tables, trash and recycling containers and porta-potties.

New netting has been ordered for next year for the Soccer complex. The existing nets have been there a number of years and are in need of replacement.

B. Recreation Coordinator Updates

Mr. Gunderson reviewed some people have suggested a splash pad at Lions Park. Parking would need to be expanded and shelters would need to be eliminated. It is difficult to get in and out of the park. The referendum called for two splash pads. One should go into Boulevard Park with a second one at Lions Park or Crooked Lake Park. At Lions Park, the splash pad would be right in the residents' backyard. The Ice Arena needs some draws to bring people to the area. The Council is having another workshop in December where recreation will be discussed.

Mr. Gunderson stated the farmer's market will end on Weds. It was a good year and they plan to come back next year. The fall session of Yoga may be cancelled due to lack of sign-ups. Football is using the soccer complex and sharing storage space with soccer. Fall leagues have been held at Wintercrest. Fall baseball is going on.

User groups meetings were held with the associations. For the most part they are all happy with a few maintenance items. New contracts will be drawn up and reviewed by Council on December 8th. The use of Aspen Park by the Little League was discussed. A relationship needs to be developed with Fast Pitch. Advertising at Aspen Park needs to be decided whether it will be allowed or not. The consensus of the Commission was that

Aspen Park should be considered a multi-purpose facility in 2016. Options will be provided for Commission and Council consideration for Fast Pitch. Little League had created some infrastructure in City land. This should probably be reviewed by the legal department.

Mr. Gunderson stated the High School has indicated an interest in partnering with the City to develop an off-campus field with lights for varsity games. Commissioner Weaver stated the current High School field is not good.

Mr. Gunderson stated all future agreements need to be very clear on the responsibilities of the parties as far as maintenance. One idea was to have a committee consisting of a member of each association and mandatory annual meeting to discuss issues concerning all associations.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WEAVER, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Gunderson
Recreation Coordinator

Drafted by:
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TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.